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12 September 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)

FROM: Chief, Medical Staff

SUBJECT: Psychiatric Requirements

1. The Medical Office is appreciative of the present interest displayed by the Agency in regard psychiatric problems. This is a refreshing change from the days when it was debatable whether or not the Medical Office needed a psychiatrist. It is feared, however, that present interest may wane if the services of a full-time psychiatrist are obtained. Inasmuch as a recommendation has recently been submitted that may result in the procurement of such service, it is considered advisable that additional comments be made on this subject.

2. It would appear that the Agency is most concerned with the security aspects of psychiatric problems. The services of a full-time psychiatrist will certainly facilitate solution of individual cases, but security considerations will continue to be of concern unless the Agency decides to seek police powers. The Medical Office joins in expressing concern regarding security implications. However, this is considered only one aspect of a fairly large problem. The problem is not merely the apprehension and disposition of severely disturbed employees; consideration should be given to prevention and treatment.

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The Personnel Office also conducts some form of evaluation on certain clerical employees. Recently the Office of Training announced it would perform its own selection in regard career selection.

This is all very well, but it would seem most advisable that every prospective employee receive at least a limited form of assessment. This is judged to be the determination of emotional stability and is considered the responsibility of the Medical Office. The problem is mostly research in nature and is best performed under the direc-

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tion of a competent psychiatrist. The results of the program could serve as a more realistic basis for whatever assessment programs are required.

The foregoing is concerned with selection and evaluation, i.e., forms of prevention. Other forms, as applied in industrial medicine, are worthy of attention.

4. The second aspect of the psychiatric problem is treatment. For reasons of security primarily, but also by reason of failure to recognize early symptomatology, individuals cannot or may not seek psychiatric assistance. In such matters the Agency should be prepared to provide treatment within reasonable limitations. The number of such cases could keep even the most energetic psychiatrist happily occupied.

5. A third requirement for psychiatric support is to act as advisor. Certain classified projects and certain procedures not the product of the Medical Office require expert psychiatric opinion or representation. At present lay personnel in the Agency must rely on and must interpret non-CIA opinion.

6. It is not the custom of this office to write critiques or apologies, however, in view of the degree of attention focused on psychiatric problems the foregoing is pardonably submitted. This has been an attempt to indicate that the obtainment of services of a full-time psychiatrist does not provide a solution to the problems concerned but serves as a basis for solution. Any individual selected will require time, cooperation and a competent staff to assist him. Without such assurance, the Medical Office would regret its recommendation in regard [REDACTED]

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